

Message Text

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SUBJ: ZACCAGNINI AND OTHER DC LEADERS APPEAL FOR DC UNITY

SUMMARY: IN A MAJOR ADDRESS SEPTEMBER 19, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI APPEALED FOR PARTY UNITY WHICH HE SAID WAS PARTICULARLY NECESSARY IN THE PRESENT MINORITY GOVERNMENT SITUATION. IN TRANSFERRING TO PARLIAMENT NOT ONLY THE LOCUS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DEBATE BUT ALSO OF THE SUBTLE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE "CONFRONTO," THE NEW SITUATION PLACED A PREMIUM ON ESTABLISHING THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE RAPPORT BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS. THE FORTH-COMING DC PARLIAMENTARY SEMINARS AND NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING WOULD THEREFORE BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO DETERMINE THE PARTY'S ROLE AND DEFINE ITS "IDENTITY" IN THE POST-ELECTORAL PERIOD. ELSEWHERE, BOTH FANFANI (DC CENTER-RIGHT) AND DONAT-CATTIN (DC LEFT) ISSUED CALLS FOR UNITY AS THE LAST OF THE RECENT SERIES OF FACTIONAL PARTY MEETINGS CONCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE RETURNING TO ROME FROM VACATION, DC PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI
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UTILIZED THE OCCASION OF A PARTY-SPONSORED FESTA D'AMICIZIA

IN ATRI (TERAMO) FOR A MAJOR SPEECH ON THE NEED FOR CONSENSUS AND UNITY WITHIN THE PARTY. REFERRING TO THE RECENT MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS DC FACTIONS, ZACCAGNINI HELD THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THESE LEAD NOT TO DIVISIVENESS BUT TO GREATER "ORGANIC SOLIDARITY" AND "ENRICHMENT OF A COMMON POLITICAL LINE." IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO UMBERTO AGNELLI'S CALL FOR A "TECHNOCRAT" PARTY (ROME 15154), ZACCAGNINI CAUTIONED THAT RENEWAL MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THE DC'S TRADITIONAL IDEALS: "THE ECONOMIC AND MANAGERIAL ACCENT MUST NOT OVERWHELM--IN THE NAME OF PURE EFFICIENCY--A POLITICAL DESIGN INSPIRED BY IDEALISTIC MOTIVES."

2. ZACCAGNINI SAID THAT THE FORTHCOMING DC PARLIAMENTARY SEMINARS AND NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING WILL NOT ONLY HELP "TO DETERMINE THE ROLE OF THE PARTY (IN THE POST-ELECTORAL PERIOD) BUT ALSO TO DEFINE THE IDENTITY OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY ITSELF." HE PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON FINE-TUNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS IN THE PRESENT MINORITY GOVERNMENT SITUATION. WITHOUT "AN ORGANIC GOVERNMENT MAJORITY," NOT ONLY WILL THE LEGISLATIVE DEBATE BE TRANSFERRED TO PARLIAMENT, BUT ALSO THE "MORE EXQUISITELY POLLTICAL" ASPECTS OF CONFRONTO AS WELL. THIS NEW SITUATION REQUIRED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE RAPPORT BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS.

3. THE PARTY SECRETARY ALSO CALLED ON THE PARTY NOT TO LIMIT ITS "CONFRONTO" ONLY TO THE PCI. THIS WOULD BE AN EASY BUT MISTAKEN TENDENCY IN THE POST-JUNE 20 SITUATION. THE DC MUST SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS IN AN OPEN AND AUTONOMOUS "CONFRONTO" WITH ALL THE OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL PARTIES. HE CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING THE PARTY'S FULL SUPPORT ("WITHOUT ANY RESERVE") FOR THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM WHICH HE SAID EMBODIES THE PARTY'S CONCRETE SOLUTIONS.

4. ZACCAGNINI'S CALL FOR UNITY AT ARTI WAS SECONDED BY PARTY PRESIDENT FANFANI WHO ADDRESSED A DC YOUTH GROUP AT RIANO (ROME) ON THE SAME DAY. FANFANI WARNED THAT THE DC WOULD BE UNABLE TO BROADEN ITS SUPPORT UNLESS "IT SERIOUSLY ABANDONED ALL MANIFESTATIONS OF FACTIONS AND PERSONALITIES." FANFANI ALSO CALLED ON THE PARTY TO REMAIN TRUE TO ITS TRADITIONAL IDEALS.

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5. FORZE NUOVE LEADER DONAT-CATTIN ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY BEHIND ZACCAGNINI'S LEADERSHIP IN HIS CONCLUDING ADDRESS TO THE SAINT VINCENT MEETING OF THE DC-LEFT (ROME 15248). ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN PERSONALLY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE PARTY SECRETARY'S LEADERSHIP, DONAT-CATTIN OBVIOUSLY SOUGHT TO DISPEL THE IMAGE OF PARTY INFIGHTING WHICH MANY OBSERVERS ASCRIBED TO THE GATHERING. HIS DEFENSE OF ZACCAGNINI COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN

STRONGER: "ZACCAGNINI IS THE SECRETARY ELECTED BY THE CONGRESS,
AND WE WANT THE PARTY TO FUNCTION UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP AND NOT TO
LOSE ALL THAT WE HAVE GAINED." COMMENT: NOT ALL THE DC LEFT IS
UNITED ON ZACCAGNINI, HOWEVER. AT THE SAME MEETING, BASE LEADER
DE MITA CRITICIZED THE PARTY SECRETARY FOR SERIOUS "INSUFFI-
CIENCIES" AND FOR LEAVING THE INITIATIVE TO THE PCI. DE MITA
STOPPED SHORT OF ASKING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SECRETARYSHIP,
HOWEVER. END COMMENT. VOLPE

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